

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**

**VIRGINIA**

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS**

**AGRICHEMICAL HANDLING FACILITY**

**CODE 702**

Land Owner/Operator\_\_\_\_\_

County\_\_\_\_\_ SWCD\_\_\_\_\_ Farm/Tract No. \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared By\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

Operator's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS**

A properly operated and maintained Agrichemical Handling Facility can be an asset to your farm. The Agrichemical Handling Facility was designed to control incidental spillage from chemical mixing and equipment filling operations. The estimated life span of this installation is at least \_\_\_\_\_ years. The life of this installation can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a systematic operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require you to perform periodic operation and maintenance to maintain satisfactory performance. This plan must be kept on location at the Agrichemical Handling Facility. Your operation and maintenance program requirements include:

- For all spills, the operator must notify: Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Pesticide Services, at (804) 371-6558. If further notification of other organizations is required, VDACS will assist by providing the appropriate contacts.
- Any need for repairs or material replacement should be attended to immediately. The facility shall not be used until repairs are made. The site should be inspected after all potentially damaging natural events.
- An emergency response plan must be developed. The plan shall contain the telephone numbers for the emergency spill center and poison control center. All Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) shall be attached to the emergency response plan. Records shall be provided to the local fire department that list the chemicals stored on the site. The emergency response plan is to be posted at the Agrichemical Handling Facility by the nearest telephone.
- During the operation of the facility, all local, state, and federal laws shall be followed. Post warning, trespassing, and 'no smoking' signs around the facility. All safety features such as ventilation, lighting, fire extinguishers, and smoke detectors must be maintained in working order. All locks shall be maintained and/or replaced as necessary. All fences, railings, and/or signs shall be maintained to provide warning and/or prevent unauthorized human or livestock entry.

- Use appropriate personal safety equipment such as gloves, eye protection, and a respirator when mixing and handling agricultural chemicals. State regulations and chemical labels may require additional safety equipment.
- Positive drainage shall be maintained around the facility.
- Sump pumps and all associated electric components shall be maintained in working order.
- The Agrichemical Handling Facility shall be kept free of items not necessary for the storing, mixing, loading, and cleanup operations. The facility should not be used for purposes other than the storing, mixing, loading, cleaning and maintenance of materials and equipment used for chemical application. The facility shall not be used to store feed, seed, petroleum products, or livestock.
- Do not drain rinse water or rinsate from the chemical application equipment onto the mixing pad as a standard practice due to the probability of contamination by soil, trash and other chemicals. Accumulated rainwater on any part of the facility shall be disposed of as a dilute chemical to a labeled site or used as make-up water for subsequent batches of the chemicals that are labeled for the same crop. A filter should be used when pumping water from the sump to prevent sediment or other material from entering the rinsate or sprayer tanks
- Sumps should be thoroughly cleaned between the mixing and loading of different chemicals. The resulting rinsate can be applied as a dilute chemical to a labeled site or used as make-up water for subsequent batches of the chemicals that are labeled for the same crop. The sump shall be pumped dry at the end of each day of operation.
- Sediment from a sump shall be removed with proper precautions taken to reduce exposure of the worker to any potential contaminants in the sediment. Sediment from a pesticide is considered the same weight active ingredient as the formulated chemical being mixed. This sediment should be land applied to the target crop at a rate below the label recommendation. The sediment shall be removed from the sump prior to a switch from one chemical to another chemical.
- The rinsate tanks used for holding tanks for sump discharge should be emptied as soon as possible. The rinsate can be applied as a dilute chemical or used as dilution water for subsequent batches of chemicals that are labeled for the same crop.
- All material removed from the containment mixing pad and sump must be: (a) applied to the target crop as pesticide, (b) used as make-up water in mixing to be applied to the target crop, or (c) disposed of as waste in conformance with all local, state, and federal regulations. Empty containers shall be disposed of in a method that is consistent with state law.
- Do not allow the operation of any equipment that exceeds the design limit on or within ten feet of the Agrichemical Handling Facility.
- Immediately repair any vandalism, vehicular or livestock damage to the structure, earthen areas surrounding the structure, or any appurtenances.

The Agrichemical Handling Facility should be inspected at least twice annually to ensure proper operation. The inspection should include, but is not limited to, checking for:

- cracks in the concrete pad and sump.
- adequate sealer on the interior surfaces of the pad, sump, and sidewalls.
- proper operation of back flow prevention devices.
- proper performance of hoses, pipes, valves, connectors, filters, tanks, and related plumbing material.

- proper placement of all lids, grates, and shields on openings to underground structures.
- proper operation of safety equipment.
- proper operation of the electrical systems.
- roof and structural integrity of facility.
- properly maintained access roads and ramps.
- positive drainage around building.
- labeling of rinsate storage tanks to ensure rinsate is properly applied back to the land
- up-to-date chemical inventory.

Additional Operation and Maintenance Requirements Specific to this Plan:\_\_\_\_\_

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